

Practice Before the Commission

The Adjudication Division is comprised of the Data Center (formerly known as the Records Department) and the Regulatory Law Judges. The Division Director is both the Secretary of the PSC and the Chief Judge. The Secretary is statutorily responsible for the records of the PSC and is specifically called upon to superintend the issuance of all PSC orders.

The Data Center is responsible for maintaining a complete and accurate record of every case which comes before the PSC. This department receives thousands of documents per month, each one of which must be reviewed, distributed and maintained in the permanent case file. The Data Center also issues hundreds of formal orders each month.

The Chief Judge is the Division Director of the Adjudication Division and acts as the Chief Judge of the eight-judge panel. The Judges receive training at the National Judicial College for procedural skills specific to the PSC and also at various utility seminars and conferences for substantive training in the disciplines of economics, accounting and engineering as they relate to the regulated utilities. The Chief Judge assigns newly filed cases to the other Judges on a rotational basis and, thereafter, the individual judge is responsible for supervising that particular case and coordinating the procedures with the Commissioners.

The Judge prepares and issues preliminary orders to provide notice and procedural due process so that all parties have the opportunity for a full, fair and informative hearing. The primary concern for the Judge is to ensure a complete and competent record is compiled upon which the PSC may base its decision. It is the duty of the Judge to take the case from initial assignment all the way through to the post hearing briefs and preparation of a final order reflecting the Commission's findings of fact and conclusions of law.



Evidentiary hearings are part of the ratemaking process.

Mediation Process

The Adjudication Division has developed a mediation process whereby parties may refer complaint cases to a third-party neutral mediator. This service is offered, at no cost, by the Alternative Dispute Resolution Center at the University of Missouri-Columbia School of Law.

The mediation process is voluntary, and cases are resolved when both parties come to a mutual agreement. This process does not require legal counsel and should be less expensive, less adversarial, less formal, less time-consuming and more personal than a formal evidentiary hearing before the full PSC.

Mediations are confidential and settlement offers as well as other disclosures made during a mediation session are not admissible at a later hearing or trial.